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LETTER

TO THE

BISHOP of LONDON, &c.

(Price Two Shillings.)

J. E. F. R. 50059

TO THE

LIBRARY OF LONDON

A
L E T T E R
TO THE
BISHOP of LONDON,
ON HIS
PUBLIC CONDUCT.

Pointing out among other particulars, his Lordship's
inattention to

PUBLIC ORDINATIONS,
AND
HIRELING PREACHERS.

IN WHICH IS DELINEATED,
The CHARACTER of a late examining CHAPLAIN.

By a CURATE.

A BISHOP must be blameless as the Steward of God: not
Self-will'd—nor given to filthy Lucre, &c.—But a Lover
of Hospitality,—a Lover of good Men.—

PAUL to TITUS.

L O N D O N:
Printed and sold by J. WHEBLE, in Pater-noster Row.

MDCCLXXII.

E. T. E. R.

TO THE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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930.



MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

THEORY AND PRACTICE

By J. CURTIS.

DEDICATION.

DEDICATION.

To the MEMBERS of BOTH UNIVER-
SITIES, who intend becoming CANDI-
DATES for HOLY ORDERS, parti-
cularly in the Diocese of LONDON.

GENTLEMEN,

TH E few following pages are dedi-
cated to you for a very obvious
reason, because they nearly concern you.
I have pointed out several acts of op-
pression, and other inconsistencies, which

A

are

DEDICATION.

are exercised in the diocese of London, respecting *public ordinations*, and *the toleration of scandalous offices for hireling preachers*, &c. These are grievances, Gentlemen, that many have laboured under, and which will probably reach you, unless they are timely redressed.

HAVING experienced the usurped authority of an examining chaplain, I have warned you of this rock, so often fatal to modest merit; and shewn you by my own example, by what means only his tyranny can be defeated. He is a respectable character as long as he is consistent, and challenges our esteem. A deviation from candor renders him obnoxious, and justifies our keenest resentment. This grievance, therefore, you may

DEDICATION.

may in part prevent, by a spirited exertion : The others can only be remedied by a change of sentiments in our Diocesan. If any thing I have advanced does but in the least contribute towards this change, it will give me great pleasure, as I shall be somewhat instrumental, in making the paths of our profession less intricate and perplexing.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient Servant,

and Well-Wisher,

LONDON,
Feb. 10, 1772.

A CURATE.

DEDICATION.

may be put forward by a friend or
other: the others can only be removed
by a change of sentiment in our Dis-
course. If any thing have advanced here
but in the least contributes towards this
change, it will give me great pleasure,
as I shall be somewhat instrumental in
moving the path of our profession less in-
tricate and perplexing.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

and Well-Wisher,

A. CURATE.

London.
Febr. 1772.

A

L E T T E R

T O T H E

B I S H O P, &c.

MY LORD,

YOU have been happy enough to experience the essential difference between the Right Rev. Prelate, and the poor humble Curate. The distance, awful as it is between your Lordship and me, was formed by the capricious hand of fortune, who in the same whimsical moment might have made me the bishop, and you curate of *****. She wantonly determined it otherwise.—One God regardless of rank, has however ordained us fellow-pastors of his people. In the discharge of this sacred office I lose the splendor of your mitre; and therefore in the following letter shall be unpolite enough to address you

B

respectfully,

respectfully, but without reserve. Respect is due to you, as a man possessed of some virtues. A timid reserve would frustrate the intention of this publication, since there are many errors in your conduct, of which I hope to make you sensible. In this enlightened age it will be thought a strange piece of knight-errantry, for a curate to attempt the reformation of his diocesan : But let my zeal, and your Lordship's condescension, work wonders.

WHEN by the interest of Lord Bute you were translated from Peterborough to London, your income was improved, but your charge became more solemn. The clergy of your new diocese formed to themselves the most pleasing expectations. Freed from an imperious* tyrant, who ever loaded them with insults, they now looked for a mild and gentle guardian of their church. After minutely examining your conduct at the see you resigned, they found it considerably in your favor. You left behind you a character rarely to be met with ; a bishop without hypocrisy !—a gentleman without pride !—a man of strict integrity !—Expectations well-grounded render a disappointment doubly distressing. The former sanctity of your manners misled us.—

No sooner were you enthroned at St. Paul's, than you thought proper to alter your system. The pretty appendages of *Lord Commissioner of trade and plantations, Governor of the Charter-house,—Dean of the Royal chapel,—and One of his Ma-*

* Dr. Osbaldiston.

iesty's most honourable privy council, added to the metropolitan bishoprick, roused you to a proper sense of your importance. The transition was certainly great, and flattering. To preserve the same sentiments under these additional honors, required more fortitude than you possessed. The greatness or meanness of a man's mind, my Lord, is never more conspicuous, than when he is invested with riches and authority, or cramped by neglect and penury: the fickle, and irresolute are contemptible in either situation: a great soul will in both extremes discover, an uniformity of sentiment, and action. There are but two causes, that can possibly be assigned for your Lordship's apostacy: An imbecility of disposition; or a too intimate connexion with your patron. The appearance of that nobleman (in the political hemisphere) like the raging dog-star, denoted contagion. The state had fatally experienced his baneful influence, without the most distant prospect of redress; but no one suspected he had a design against the church, or would so far brand himself with sacrilege, as to effect the pollution of a bishop.

Y O U R frequent interviews with the Sovereign, and your repeated denials to be seen by your brethren the clergy, were circumstances not a little mortifying to those, who respected you. Consulted as minister to an earthly potentate, you were content to wave the office you held under the king of kings. By this part of your conduct I concluded, that you meant to throw off the weight of ecclesiastical matters, holding your bishopric by way of *commendam* with your civil employments,

and that your Secretary Mr. Dickes, would be appointed *Locum Tenens* of the see of London. My conclusion was justly founded. Letters of whatever importance were now answered (and that when he thought proper) by the pert Mr. Dickes. Your Lordship was much better employed ; making one at the Carlton-house junto, or assisting at a board of trade. I am at a loss to reconcile the appointment of a bishop to the board of trade, or giving him a seat in the cabinet, with the maxims of sound policy. I should do wrong perhaps, in hastily pronouncing the adviser of such measures, an enemy to his country ; but however he might act from principle, his notions were erroneous. The sacred ministry, that each prelate swears watchfully to preside over, cannot but suffer, either by a commercial, or political connexion. There are matters of a sacred nature, sufficient to engross the whole attention of a bishop in his own diocese, (particularly that of London) without his being made the jest of the *Royal-Exchange*, or the *Cocoa-Tree*.

YOUR religious concerns were now contracted into a very narrow compass indeed. You administered the holy sacrament to the royal family on a solemn feast day, or read prayers to her majesty, once or twice a year in her private apartments. Two or three millions of souls could not be divested of their grand pastor without a murmur. Their disapprobation of your conduct, was notwithstanding, modestly conveyed to you through various channels, but without the desired effect.

MUCH

MUCH about this time, you had an opportunity of convincing Lord Bute of your unlimited zeal for his service. The general election was at hand. I will not again mention the bold push you made at Oxford in favor of him, and his adherents. If you are dead to what has already been said to you on that subject, I cannot awake you. Yield at least, my Lord, to the shrine of modesty, a penitential blush, when you hear the name of that university mentioned you have so much insulted. I dare say it begins to appear strange, to you, that your activity has not been more bountifully rewarded. Whether you derive infamy, or honor from the assertion, I aver you have never once varied from the line proscribed to you by the ministry. This you politically thought the high road to *Lambeth*: It was so; but *Cornwallis* found a nearer. The Duke of *Grafton's* rhetoric satisfied you that the next reversion was equivalent to your services. With his fickle assurance thereof, you again drudged on. Let this period sooner or later arrive, I would recommend to you, as preparatory to your translation, a review of the actions of your last seven years. Some few I have already reminded you of: And as your memory may fail you on this occasion, I will endeavour to strengthen it, by a recital of a few more. Your political engagements will perhaps prevent your perusal of this letter: But the public curiosity being satisfied, you may possibly learn the material contents of it from some of your minions, though they tenderly retail it to you in small fragments.

A PUBLIC ORDINATION

IT has ever been granted, that on its teachers, the success of the religion they profess principally depends. The choice of persons therefore to serve in this sacred department, cannot be of trifling consequence. I have pretty good reasons to imagine your Lordship's sentiments, and mine, vary on this subject; or the next conclusion I make, will be less in your favor. To be more ingenuous.—I had the honor of being admitted into the holy ministry, by the imposition of your hands: And except that ceremonial part of the office, you had no more concern in the ordination, than the Pope has in preparing souls for Elysium. A day was appointed for the public examination of the candidates for holy orders. It was a day devoted to the cruel satisfaction of your tyrant chaplain * Dr. *Hind*. Your Lordship was very unfortunate in your choice of this man, for a character, he was designed by nature to counteract. An examining chaplain, should be possessed of the patient mildness of a faint: but this pharisaical priest, has the forbidding austerity of a satyr. To come to any certain degree of knowledge of a young man's parts, we should avoid the appearance of an enemy, and invite with the softness of a friend. The Doctor's plan was different.

AMONG twenty, that were to contribute to his amusement, there were doubtless various capacities. Mine was remarkable

* Now Rector of St. Ann's, Soho.

for neither extreme: Not ignorant of the classicks, and able as I thought to render a decent account of my faith, for a young fellow just come from college, I was determined to meet this pedantic bully without emotion. Nine o'clock on the monday morning was appointed for our appearance: Over-sleeping myself, I was not there till half an hour after the time. On my entrance, the Doctor accosted me with, "Sir, "I am surprized at your inattention to my orders, concerning "the hour for examination." To this I answered, "that I "hoped I should not be the last in performing the exercise required of me." He gave me half a mortifying sentence by way of reply, and bade me follow him into a room adjoining, when, after much consideration, he selected a sheet of paper out of twenty or thirty others, and thrust it into my hand. On my return into the other room among my persecuted brethren, I examined it's contents. On one side of the sheet was written in English the 28th article de *Cæna domini*, which I was to translate into latin: the other side contained a thesis, on which I was to write my thoughts in the same language. Comparing notes with each other, we found, that masters of arts of thirty years of age, had only to prove *that the human and divine nature were united in our Savior*; when others of two and twenty, were ordered, *to invalidate the pope's supremacy over the church*, or, (as was my lot) *to illucidate the benighted doctrine of Transubstantiation*. Having translated the article, the few arguments I could offer on the subject proposed, were soon penned. I endeavoured therefore to gain an audience of our tyrant; but was informed, that every one was to be had

privately into the anti-chamber, in rotation as they came. It was not difficult to know my post, for I arrived the last: I had therefore no other remedy than patience. However I remained undaunted, though I heard him triumphing over the timidity of gentlemen and scholars, with a voice like thunder; some of whom came out even with tears in their eyes, complaining of his uncandid behavior.

ABOUT four in the afternoon it came to my turn to face him. The dinner bell rung soon after the interview, a warning I vainly flattered myself of a speedy deliverance. He was willing to forego the delicacies of your Lordship's table, to prey upon a young man's distresses. Discovering his intentions by the importance he assumed, I called up the more resolution. When I gave him the article, and theme, he laid them aside, without uttering a syllable. He put into my hand, *Grotius de veritate Christianæ Religionis*, out of which I construed a long chapter, and answered a part of the numberless questions in the course of my reading he proposed. A greek testament was next presented to me, with abbreviated characters, and of a very bad type; the Doctor reserving a fair, and large edition for himself. As I did not suppose he meant to treat me like a school boy, I opened it, and began to read the greek to the end of the sentence, and then to render it into latin. Here my Lord I was stopped, and ordered to construe it literally: word by word from greek into latin, and from latin into english. I remonstrated with him on this indignity, but he

he was inflexible. After niggling thus thro' a whole chapter, he began to examine me in every knotty point of divinity, that arose from each verse. Some I answered; others, of a dark, or doubtful nature, I modestly told him I was not thoroughly acquainted with. This was the opening he wanted, to exercise his severity, and display his own pomposity of religious diction. He occasionally abused me for my imperfect knowledge of the sacred writings, and said the most severe, and absurd things his passion could suggest. His tyranny at last becoming intolerable, I rose up from my chair, and addressed him in nearly this form of words; which he will remember perhaps longer than myself: " Look ye, " Sir; I came here to undergo a fair examination, and not to " be bullied. You have neither treated me with the polite- " ness of a gentleman, or the candor I had a right to expect " on this occasion. I refuse therefore to answer you another " syllable. If you question my abilities, I am content to ap- " peal to his Lordship, who I doubt not, will do me justice." Struck with this unlooked for retort, he confusedly answered, " Sir you are very warm without reason; I do not disapprove " of you: if you come on friday morning about ten o'clock, " you will be ordained."

HERE my Lord, is the pompous Dr. *Hind*, portray'd in his true colors as examining chaplain to the Bishop of London! The world will reasonably ask, why could you select such a man, for such an office? I could forgive you an error in judg-

D

ment,

ment, were that your misfortune. But you shall not plead an ignorance of his character, prior to your personal knowledge of him. His pride, and tyranny, wanted not your Lordship's sanction to make them universally known. Though you imbibed most of your notions from the sister university, yet Oxford has more than once been honored with some uncommon marks of your attention; and therefore you cannot but have heard of a man, of whom, *fame* will never be silent. When a proctor there, he was the terror, of every one beneath him; and if the prostitution of great abilities can render him more compleatly odious, he will remain a monument of universal detestation. Perhaps he was indulged with your countenance, to prevent his future visits to Oxford; meant as an expiation before-hand to that seminary, for the insults your fates had decreed you should offer them. But you should at least have considered my Lord, that a savage, who has been the terror of a whole forest, becomes more ferocious and formidable, as his limits are curtailed.

PREVIOUS to our going to chapel on the friday morning, the * eighteen that obtained your chaplain's *probat*; had the honor of being admitted into your presence; for no other reason, but because you could not avoid it. 'Tis many years since, yet I perfectly recollect your Lordship's, as well as our situation. You were seated in a great-armed-chair reading a pamphlet: We were called over (standing in a row) by your

* The other two were pluck'd.

secretary,

secretary, like a party of recruits for the foot-guards, and *attested*. *Attested* my Lord, I say ! nor do I mean to be jocular : A number of hasty, and incoherent sentences were uttered to us, at the end of each of which, we were ordered to kiss the book. I declare upon my honor, I knew not the nature of some of them, and I believe there were some near me who were ignorant of the nature of all. Your attention was too much taken up to favor us with an explanation : for if my memory serves me, you never once took your eyes from the publication you were reading.

OUR next orders were to repair immediately to the king's chapel. When there, we waited during the prayers, and ordination sermon, expecting you ; but no bishop appeared. After the congregation had left the chapel some time, we were informed, that you had just got into the vestry a private way, and were robing. You came out I recollect, time enough to be a spectator of an act, that can never be mentioned to your advantage : I mean the yeoman of your vestry insolently demanding, and that in your presence, and hearing, half a crown from each of us, for furnishing us with the dirty surplices belonging to the gentlemen of the choir. Is it not strange my Lord, that you above all men, should countenance this extortion, in the sacred house of the almighty, and the palace of your sovereign ? You may *now* have learnt to reconcile such an act with the character you profess ; a man of feeling, would ever find it an arduous undertaking.

THE ceremony ended, we were ordered to return to your house in Bond-street, for our letters of orders. When we came there, we were told that we must call the next evening (saturday) as your Lordship was engaged. Here, my Lord, I accuse you of a want of humanity, and leave you to acquit yourself as you are able. You will recollect, that we had been already six days in town, and were now to be detained a seventh, thro' your unaccountable pride, or caprice. It must be as well known to you, as the rest of the world, that the generality of young gentlemen, who offer for orders, are streightened in point of fortune. The particular poverty of many of us you were thoroughly acquainted with. I was not the only one, who was obliged to borrow the money to defray the expences. Was it not enough then my Lord, to be bullied by your chaplain,—commanded by your secretary,—robbed by the vestry-keeper of your chapel,—starved out of our money by your rapacious servants,—and despised by your Lordship yourself, but you must keep us another day in town, without a farthing in our pockets (except your secretary's fees) because you were not disposed to write your bare name to our orders? The next evening, however, we regained our liberty, after being fleeced by Mr. Dickes, and went down into the country pennyless, "*to preach the gospel of peace.*"

IN conformity to custom, even those prudent prelates, who laugh at St. Paul's notions of hospitality, are wont to invite their new ordained brethren to partake of their table: Your haughty predecessor, was not wanting in this particular. You have

have prudently improved upon his notions ; for you banish the meer shadow of hospitality. Why my Lord was it, that we were not favored with this external mark of your respect ? Was it your pride would not permit you to sit down with us, or that you were afraid eighteen hearty young fellows, would have done too much violence to your new system of œconomy ? Your fears, if so, were too great on this occasion : for after the treatment we had received from you, and your dependents, I can assure your Lordship, you would have got off at the expence of a compliment.

————— HERE let us pause a moment, and view this pretty perspective of an ordination, as modernized by your Lordship. Other bishops have fallen into fashionable absurdities, but it was reserved for you to make this masterly refinement in episcopacy. I would have spared you the torture of seeing it exhibited to the public, did not so flagrant an error demand the general detestation. It was not the absurdity of a day ; with that I could have indulged you. It is your uniform favorite system ; and that I would destroy. I can conceive it possible that you are proof against argument, however forcible : But a review of these facts, simple and unadorned, may possibly weigh with you, and rouse you to reflection. The next general ordination will convince me. If I find you are arrived to that pitch of dignified superiority, after this, to persist in your old plan, I will make another attempt, that may perhaps be more successful. I mean to alarm your pride, if possible, by comparison. By the splendor of a bright character, we are enabled to

E

trace,

trace, and condemn the shades of a deformed one.—I was ordained priest by the amiable bishop of W——, whose behavior on that solemn occasion, reflects on him the greatest honor. My next letter shall contain the particulars, as a contrast to what I have now exhibited. Perhaps you are predetermined to despise his notions as well as mine: The world however will be more favorable in their opinion, who judge not according to your Lordship's prejudices.

HIRELING PREACHERS.

THE hardships of the inferior clergy have long been complained of as numerous and heavy. They have often, but in vain, been strongly recommended of late to a parliamentary consideration. Though these distresses certainly demand a serious enquiry, we cannot my Lord, be surprized to find, that parliament should refuse to take cognizance of them, when the bench of bishops never thought proper to point them out as an object worthy it's attention, or even condescended to take them into their own consideration. I speak from authority, when I affirm, that many of you have been talked to apart on this subject, to no purpose. Your tender bowels, indeed, have so far yearned with compassion, as to make you join in the tale of lamentation, to save appearances: But I much doubt whether one has stooped so low as to examine the premises.

mises. As for you, my Lord, I am convinced they have never once employed your thoughts ; or you would have escaped a charge of a very serious nature. You may possibly think it hard to be singled out to answer for this neglect : I am satisfied 'tis equitable. Your situation required more vigilance than that of the rest of your Right Reverend Brethren, and you have discovered in it, more negligence and inattention.

I accuse you of being the principal cause of many of the distresses of the inferior clergy. This is a bold assertion, and demands proof : You shall have sufficient, even for the conviction of a bishop. I mean to rest the support of my charge, upon one plain fact, "*your toleration of public offices for*" "HIRELING PREACHERS, &c." Should you, in the course of my short strictures on this subject, be placed in an unfavorable light to the world, or yourself, the fault is not mine : You should not have been the immediate cause of effects, destructive of that system of morality, you were intended to defend.

THOUGH your Lordship is well acquainted with the nature of ECCLESIASTICAL REGISTER-OFFICES, the public, who are to be judges of their propriety, may not. Excuse me therefore a small digression for their information.

THE first institutor of this pious undertaking, was one *Hawkshaw*, lately deceased : He was a taylor by business, and parish clerk of Christ Church, Newgate - street. Soon after

ter I was ordained, curiosity led me to the house of this retailer of godliness. I found him in his little dark office, with a black velvet cap on his head, looking like an eastern nabob. Around him were his miserable dependents, paying their court, and receiving orders for the ensuing week. I blushed for the first time for the order to which I now belonged. Some of them were rebuked for going to their different churches with unclean linen, not being shaved, &c. others, for indecencies I had never before heard of. When the levee was up, as an excuse for coming there, I asked Mr. Hawkshaw, whether he could recommend me to a good curacy. He told me, "*he must refer me to his wife, for the little bell rung in at Christ Church, and he must attend divine service.*" When the room was clear, the good woman put on her spectacles, and began to open the books ; prior to which the following * dialogue ensued.

Mrs. HAWKSHAW.

" Pray Sir, do you want to be retired as we call it ?

Mr. —.

" I don't understand you.

Mrs. H—.

" Why, Sir, do you want to have your abode a secret ? If

" you do, we can suit you to a hole.

* The conversation that then passed between Mrs. *Hawkshaw*, and the Author, was so very striking, that he minuted it down directly he got home, as near as his memory would serve him ; which minutes are here literally transcribed.

Mr.

(17)

Mr. —.

“ No, I want a genteel curacy in the country, and care not
“ who knows where I am.

Mrs. H—.

“ I am sorry Sir, it happens so, but we have nothing of
“ that kind at present upon the books; but by the blessing of
“ God, I hope we shall soon.

Mr. —.

“ So I find you provide for gentlemen, who chuse to be
“ concealed.

Mrs. H—.

“ Why yes, truly Sir : what can we do?—If a poor gen-
“ tleman is in debt, or thro’ misfortunes has brought himself
“ to drinking; they must not starve. God knows what any
“ of us may come to!—We generally provide for such unfor-
“ tunate gentlemen in the *Wilds of Kent, or the Hundreds of*
“ *Essex*.—There was a poor young gentleman, that was, be-
“ sides all this, terribly given to women; he brought himself
“ into such disgrace, that it was not in our power to do any
“ thing for him at last, but get him a turn now and then at
“ the *King’s Bench*, or *Marshalsea-Prison*. I dare say you
“ know who I mean?

Mr. —.

“ No, upon my word I do not:

F

Mrs.

Mrs. H——.

“ It was poor young * *Green*; son of as honest a man as
“ ever broke bread; *Green* the pencutter in Fleet-street.
“ *Mr. Hawkshaw* loved that youth as if he had been his own
“ never so much. He was a clever lad to be sure, and a very
“ good one in the pulpit. But he was always raving about
“ *Wilkes and Liberty*, and that I believe turned his brain.
“ Many’s the good time my husband setting in that there
“ chair, has given him the advice of a Father; but all to no
“ purpose. I’m afraid he’ll come to an untimely end.

Mr. —.

“ Pray if it is not an impertinent question, what is become
“ of this Mr. *Green*?

Mrs. H——.

“ I don’t know indeed, Sir, except he shipp’d himself for
“ the colonies. The last time I ever laid these eyes upon him,
“ he used us all worse than dogs. You must know he had
“ courted our only child for six or seven months; and my
“ poor husband not liking his way of living, desired he would
“ not think of her any more. Upon this he curs’d him for a
“ lousy taylor, and because I took his part, he damn’d me for
“ a hump-back’d b——.

* This I found to be the infamous *Green*. The pretended duellist :—who was tried at the Old Bailey for a rape;—was broke afterwards when Chaplain of a man of war—and who now appears in the park in shabby regimentals faced with white.

Mr.

(19)

Mr. —.

“ I am amazed therefore, that you employ such men, whose
“ principles are so abandoned !

Mrs. H—.

“ But it's a thousand pities, Sir, that such young creatures
“ should be ruined, and nobody to help them. Would you
“ believe it, Sir, my husband lent him the very wig off his
“ own head, and a pair of shoes, but little the worse for the
“ wear, when he went to attend an execution at Tyburn for
“ the ordinary of Newgate ; and never laid his eyes upon them
“ again.

Mr. —.

“ What do you often equip these kind of people ?

Mrs. H—.

“ Aye, Dear, good Sir, or else business could not be done !
“ Half the churches in town and country would not be sup-
“ plied ; for the bishops don't trouble their heads about it :
“ and between you and I, my husband does more good
“ among the inferior clergy, than the Archbishop of Can-
“ terbury.

Mr. —.

“ Don't you make a distinction between gentlemen of so-
“ briety, and such people you have been talking of ?

Mrs. H—.

“ Oh Lord ! yes Sir, as you shall see presently ; for we
“ have all prices. And for cases of emergency, such as bury-
“ ing the dead, praying by the sick, &c. we keep a quiet
“ kind of a body in the house.”—“ Now Sir, you shall see.”

HERE she opened a book, in one part of which were entered the names, places of abode, &c. of the worthy gentlemen, who composed this banditti; referring to different pages where their deeds were recorded: From this, they are posted into another, called the *Service-book*, describing the sphere they are calculated to move in. The worst of them are posted, into what is called the *Black-book*, never to be employed but in cases of great danger, or necessity; such as visiting those who have the small-pox, spotted, or purple fevers; or to bury them when dead. This part I could not get a sight of; but I found these unhappy of my brethren, were such, as had got in their debt for cloathing, &c. or whose immoralities, were so very notorious, as to prevent their being called upon service.

SHOCKED, and tired with the information I had received, I was about to take my leave, when she said, " Sir you seem
 " a decent kind of a gentleman, will you let us clap your name
 " upon the list; perhaps we may be able to give you a turn
 " now and then while you stay in town." There are our rules added she, pointing to the following table, which stuck against the wall: I transcribed it with her permission, waved the compliment she intended me, and retired.

(21)

(COPY.)

A TABLE of FEES

for performing the following Duty in
LONDON, and WESTMINSTER.

	FEES		POUNDAGE.	
	£.	s. d.—	£.	s. d.
For Reading and Preaching,	0	10 6—	0	1 0
Preaching, ——— —	0	7 6—	0	0 9
Reading on Sundays, —	0	5 0—	0	0 6
———on Week Days,	0	2 6—	0	0 3
A Burying, ———	0	1 0—	0	0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Vifiting the Sick, ———	0	1 0—	0	0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$

N. B. Mr. *Hawkshaw*, expects that those reverend gentlemen, who want any of the above duty performed, will leave the fums annex'd, as a fure means of not being difappointed.

* * Curacies, curates, and *titles for orders* provided for gentlemen on the fhortest notice. Curates to pay down one fhilling in the pound, according to the yearly Salary procured them.

THIS my Lord, I believe was the firft afylum eftablifhed by authority, for *reverend* villainy. By authority, I fay : for not to difcountenance what we can prevent, is *ipfo facto* to authorize. The fuccels Mr. *Hawkshaw*'s fcheme met with, induced others to adopt his plan : fo that we have now no lefs than five at the leaft of thefe kind of offices : the *original* one (late Dame *Hawkshaw*'s deceafed) now kept by the Rev Mr.

*Wood** her partner,—another by the Rev. Mr. Carpenter in the Temple,—a third by a young *Attorney* in a Court near Holborn, a fourth and fifth by the Clerks of St. Martin's and Covent-Garden. These divinity agents have been daring enough of late to advertize their offices in the papers, publishing thereby their own insolence, and your inattention.

THE violence, that is here offered to Christianity must be evident to any one, that is capable of a reflection. The confusion that it causes in the discharge of the sacred ministry, and the injuries, that the moral, and upright dispensers of the gospel feel on this account, shall no longer be concealed from the public.

I MEAN not to be too severe in my invectives, against that unhappy class of *hackney clergymen*, who are only the secondary causes of these distractions in the church. We need not lose sight of your Lordship to discover, that to deviate from rectitude is the frailty of our nature. They are in general to be pitied, but nothing further. In the formation, and maintenance of the different societies of men, after making reasonable allowances for natural infirmities, the intentionally abandoned, and depraved, were always expelled. This policy was justly thought their strongest cement. The whole order over which you but in part preside, is however differently governed. The bad are countenanced to the destruction of the good.

Your

* Ordinary of Newgate.

Your province to do good in spiritual matters, is confin'd to the dioceſe of London. But it has been unfortunately experienced, that your power of diſpenſing miſchief is univerſal. The complaints of a whole kingdom will not let me confine the public nuisance of theſe offices to the capital. I will point out in a few inſtances their influence, both in town, and country.

It is pretty well known, my Lord, that divine ſervice has been performed in many churches of London, by people who were never ordained. To account for this, is by no means difficult. When any one applies to theſe offices for employment, no queſtion is aſked reſpecting his character, place of abode, or connections: neither is he ſo much as required to exhibit his letters of orders. Any man therefore with a black coat, and a good aſſurance, may commence divine, and enter into preſent pay.

Nothing is more common now, than for a clergyman to undertake a number of curacies, and depend upon theſe places of rendezvous for aſſiſtance. I can point out to your Lordſhip a man, who is actually at this time curate to two of the largeſt churches in town,—afternoon lecturer to another,—chaplain to one of the city company's almhouſes,—and reader and preacher to a free chapel beſides;—at each of theſe his attendance is required every ſunday. Thus circumſtanced, however aſſiſted,—however well inclined, can any man upon earth acquit himſelf to the real honor of his maker, or the ſatisfac-

tion of his auditors? I aver he cannot. From the permission of this kind of monopoly, the first parishes in London have been wholly neglected: In others, the duty has been hurried over by shabby dressed clergymen, whose only care was to get to the next church in time, to which they were *backs* for the day. Recollect, my Lord, the recent infamous behaviour of a clergyman at St. Paul's Covent Garden, and tell me whether these offices do not dishonour your Lordship, as well as the established religion of the country. You were fully informed of the circumstances, and I could wish no other person acquainted with them. Instances of this kind are not rare, and mentioned to aggravate the grievance: They are alas! too common.

EVERY church is now honored with a variety of new faces: That ceases to be a wonder: It is only a novelty to see the same clergyman twice over. The very livings of Bishops and Deans are no better taken care of. Under these circumstances, my Lord, it is natural to conclude, that settled curacies are scarce to be met with in London; I am convinced they are by experience, and have pointed out the cause. Formerly it was customary, for the preacher to enter his name in a book, kept in the vestry for the inspection of the diocesan: And the churchwardens were directed to see the letters of orders, of every strange gentleman, before he ascended the pulpit. Then we learn, at least the appearance of regularity was preserved. But these formal customs are rendered obsolete by your Lordship's refinements.

LET

LET us now travel into the country, and we shall find the effect of these offices, tho' not the same, yet equally prejudicial to the honest curate. Every country rector or vicar is become so connected with them, that upon the least misunderstanding with their curate, the poor man is immediately supplanted, by one of Mr. *Wood's*, or Mr. *Carpenter's* pious *exotics*.

THE rector, or vicar of a parish, raises his tythes according to the advanced prices of the necessaries of life. The curate attempts, on the same justifiable grounds, to augment his stipend. No sooner does he intimate his intentions, than he is discharged, and succeeded by a wretch from these agents, who accepts it on any terms for a retreat from his creditors, and a gaol, or whose immoralities had driven him *a wandering prophet, to seek for honor, far from his own country.*

DOES it not appear hard, my Lord, that an honest man should be thus deprived of bread? Shall we be favored with your pity for him, (a parent yourself) if we suppose a wife and family's sustenance is depending on this circumstance?—Where is the retreat for insulted poverty?—THE ECCLESIASTICAL REGISTER-OFFICES.---But the alternative, my Lord, is shocking to the man of feeling. And supposing he could so far get the better of his delicacy as to apply to them, he must encounter by an infamous taxation, new sorrows, and new difficulties.

You need not be informed, that were these offices suppressed, there would be no resource for the abandoned of the
H clergy;

clergy ; they must renounce their immoralities, or starve. But as long as such nurseries for infamy are countenanced, it is no wonder, that vice abounds, from whence we should reasonably expect abundance of virtue.

HENCE, my Lord, the charge I brought against you is fully supported : The humble, honest curates are not only deprived of bread, but a set of miscreants thrive on their undoing. I wish it were possible to separate the consequences of your negligence ; that you might be indulged thus to support the iniquitous, but not at the expence of the upright.

THESE are the sentiments of a man, who speaks feelingly, having suffered by the grievances he represents. They are addressed to your Lordship as the patron of them. I have not the least personal enmity against you, consequently have no revenge to gratify. The few comments here given on your public conduct, are not the effects of prejudice, but of sad experience. If any part of my language, has been too indelicate for your ear, you must impute it to the honest indignation, that produced it. I apprized you, that I should forget the distance that forms and ceremonies had established between us. I have, notwithstanding, approached you as decently, as the nature of the subject would allow. If it is not in vain to wish, may the few facts I have simply related, and the arguments I have zealously advanced, make a proper impression upon you. Should it so happen, it may be fortunate

for

for us both ; I shall be freed from the trouble of addressing you again, and you, from the pain of hearing from me, on a subject so disagreeable. Shew but a proper attention in your diocese, and it is possible I may yet be brought to venerate your character. If you persist in your errors, you shall be repeatedly brought before the awful bar of the public, that if we cannot make you answer for them, we may at least make them unpopular. Thus, without penitence, will you be visited by me, while you wear an earthly mitre ; and when you are forced to resign it to the unavoidable decree of fate, it shall be my employment to transmit you to posterity in such colors, that rising prelates may learn from example, to avoid that universal odium, you obstinately drew down upon yourself.

I am, my Lord,

Your Lordship's

most dutiful, and

obedient, humble Servant,

London, Jan.

30, 1772.

A C U R A T E.

F I N I S.



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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

